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TO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6319  
RHMFIS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY  
INFO RUEHGB/AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD PRIORITY 0065  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY  
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RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY 2121  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 001559

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STATE FOR EUR/RPM AND EUR/UBI

E.O. 12958: DECL: 07/14/2016

TAGS: MARR PREL PGOV NL

SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/IRAQ: DUTCH STILL CONSIDERING MNF-I POSITIONS

REF: THE HAGUE 1511

Classified By: Political Officer Ted Burkhalter; reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

Action request: Please see paragraph 4.

¶1. (C) Summary: Ambassador Arnall spoke July 14 with senior MFA and MOD officials to press for Dutch acceptance of an MNF-I position. Although the Dutch decision to withdraw its officer from Basra (reftel) is final, the GONL is still considering whether to send an officer to fill a staff position in Baghdad. End summary.

¶2. (C) Ambassador met with Dutch MOD Secretary General Annink, the third ranking official in the Ministry. Annink promised to consult with Defense Minister Kamp, who is on vacation, regarding our offer of MNF-I staff position(s) in Baghdad. Annink cautioned that the Dutch do not wish to fill a position unless it is substantive and important. Ambassador stressed that the positions on offer meet these criteria. Ambassador followed up with a phone call to MFA Director General for Political Affairs Pieter de Gooijer. De Gooijer echoed Annink's comments and said the MFA would be supportive if substantive positions could be found. But he said our task now was to convince MOD that the positions were not merely symbolic.

¶3. (C) Action request: Post requests CENTCOM, DOD and State to follow up with Dutch embassy, DATT, and SNR, to ensure that full details, and importance, of the positions are conveyed.

BLAKEMAN